

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA  
MARTINSBURG**

**JOSEPH RANDOLPH MAYS,**

**Plaintiff,**

**v.**

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 3:20-CV-181  
(GROH)**

**RICHARD HUDGINS, Warden,  
RICK WILSON, BRENT MILLER,  
D.J. HARMAN, ALICIA WILSON,  
IAN CONNORS, EDDIE ANDERSON,  
A. SLIGAR, JENNIFER SAAD,  
JOHN DOE, R. CLEM,  
OFFICER MASSEY,  
JOHN / JANE DOES, and  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,**

**Defendants.**

**ORDER ADOPTING THE MAGISTRATE JUDGE'S  
REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION**

Currently before the Court is a Report and Recommendation ("R&R") entered by United States Magistrate Judge Robert W. Trumble on June 9, 2021. ECF No. 81. Pursuant to Rule 2 of the Local Rules of Prisoner Litigation Procedure, this action was referred to Magistrate Judge Trumble for submission of an R&R. Therein, Magistrate Judge Trumble recommends that this Court dismiss the Plaintiff's Complaint. The Plaintiff timely filed his objections to the R&R on June 25, 2021. ECF No. 83.

**I. BACKGROUND**

On September 22, 2020, Joseph Randolph Mays ("Plaintiff"), filed a Complaint alleging various Defendants violated his constitutional rights related to the quality of drinking water at FCI Gilmer and a conspiracy to delay or refuse to respond to his

grievances at the regional and central offices. See ECF No. 1.

Upon reviewing the record, the Court finds that the facts as explained in the R&R accurately and succinctly describe the circumstances underlying the Plaintiff's claims. For ease of review, the Court incorporates those facts herein.

## **II. LEGAL STANDARDS**

Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1)(c), this Court is required to make a *de novo* review of those portions of the magistrate judge's findings to which objection is made. However, the Court is not required to review, under a *de novo* or any other standard, the factual or legal conclusions of the magistrate judge as to those portions of the findings or recommendation to which no objections are addressed. Thomas v. Arn, 474 U.S. 140, 150 (1985). Further, failure to file timely objections constitutes a waiver of *de novo* review and the Plaintiff's right to appeal this Court's Order. 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1); Snyder v. Ridenour, 889 F.2d 1363, 1366 (4th Cir.1989); United States v. Schronce, 727 F.2d 91, 94 (4th Cir.1984). Pursuant to this Court's local rules, "written objections shall identify each portion of the magistrate judge's recommended disposition that is being challenged and shall specify the basis for each objection." LR PL P 12(b). The local rules also prohibit objections that "exceed ten (10) typewritten pages or twenty (20) handwritten pages, including exhibits, unless accompanied by a motion for leave to exceed the page limitation." LR PL P 12(d).

"When a party does make objections, but these objections are so general or conclusory that they fail to direct the district court to any specific error by the magistrate judge, *de novo* review is unnecessary." Green v. Rubenstein, 644 F. Supp. 2d 723, 730 (S.D. W. Va. 2009) (citing Orpiano v. Johnson, 687 F.2d 44, 47 (4th Cir. 1982)). "When

only a general objection is made to a portion of a magistrate judge's report-recommendation, the Court subjects that portion of the report-recommendation to only a clear error review." Williams v. New York State Div. of Parole, No. 9:10-CV-1533 (GTS/DEP), 2012 WL 2873569, at \*2 (N.D.N.Y. July 12, 2012). "Similarly, when an objection merely reiterates the same arguments made by the objecting party in its original papers submitted to the magistrate judge, the Court subjects that portion of the report-recommendation challenged by those arguments to only a clear error review." Taylor v. Astrue, 32 F. Supp. 3d 253, 260-61 (N.D.N.Y. 2012).

Courts have also held that when a party's objection lacks adequate specificity, the party waives that objection. See Mario v. P & C Food Markets, Inc., 313 F.3d 758, 766 (2d Cir. 2002) (finding that even though a party filed objections to the magistrate judge's R&R, they were not specific enough to preserve the claim for review). Bare statements "devoid of any reference to specific findings or recommendations . . . and unsupported by legal authority, [are] not sufficient." Mario 313 F.3d at 766. Pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and this Court's Local Rules, "referring the court to previously filed papers or arguments does not constitute an adequate objection." Id.; See also Fed. R. Civ. P. 72(b); LR PL P 12. Finally, the Fourth Circuit has long held, "[a]bsent objection, we do not believe that any explanation need be given for adopting [an R&R]." Camby v. Davis, 718 F.2d 198, 200 (4th Cir. 1983) (finding that without an objection, no explanation whatsoever is required of the district court when adopting an R&R).

### **III. DISCUSSION**

Upon review of all the filings in this matter, the Court finds that the Plaintiff has presented no new material facts or arguments in her objections to the magistrate judge's

R&R. The Court notes that the Plaintiff filed a sixty-five-page Response in Opposition to the Defendants' Motion to Dismiss. ECF No. 70. The same day the Plaintiff filed his Response, he also filed a Motion to Strike Defamatory Language, Motion for Leave to file Excess Pages, Motion for Leave to File Out of Time, Motion to Compel, and Motion for Joinder. ECF Nos. 62, 64, 66, & 67. Therefore, the Court finds that *de novo* review is not required. Nonetheless, the Court finds that Magistrate Judge Trumble's R&R thoroughly and adequately addressed the relevant legal issues herein.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Accordingly, finding that Magistrate Judge Trumble's R&R carefully considers the record and applies the appropriate legal analysis, it is the opinion of this Court that Magistrate Judge Trumble's Report and Recommendation [ECF No. 81] should be, and is, hereby **ORDERED ADOPTED** for the reasons more fully stated therein.

The Defendants' Motion to Dismiss is **GRANTED**. ECF No. 45. Thus, the Plaintiff's Complaint is **DISMISSED WITH PREJUDICE** as to Defendants Alicia Wilson, Eddie Anderson, and the United States of America; however, the Plaintiff's Complaint is **DISMISSED WITHOUT PREJUDICE** as to Defendants Richard Hudgins, Warden, Rick Wilson, Brent Miller, D.J. Harman, Ian Connors, A. Sligar, Jennifer Saad, John Doe, R. Clem, Officer Massey, and John/Jane Does. ECF No. 1.

The Plaintiff's Motion to Compel [ECF No. 36]; Motion to Strike [ECF No. 62], Motion for Leave to File Excess pages [ECF No. 64] and Motion to Compel [ECF No. 66] are **DENIED**. Further, Plaintiff's Motion for Joinder is **DENIED as PREMATURE**. ECF No. 67. The Clerk of Court is **DIRECTED to TERMINATE** the Defendants' Motion to Strike as **MOOT**. ECF No. 79.

The Clerk of Court is further **DIRECTED** to transmit copies of this Order to all counsel of record to the *pro se* Plaintiff via certified mail at his last known address.

**DATED:** August 13, 2021



GINA M. GROH  
CHIEF UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE